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John C. Freeman, Registration No. 34,483

Name of Applicant, Assignee or
Registered Representative

Signature

Date of Signature

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GROUP 3600

PATENT
CASE NO. 4635/234

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application:)
William F. Schacht et al.)
Serial No.: 09/701,402) Group Art Unit: 3637
Filed: March 19, 2001) Examiner: Tran, Hanh Van
For: DESK SYSTEM)

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Mail Stop Amendment
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

In compliance with Applicants' duty of disclosure under 37 C.F.R. § 1.56 and in

conformance with 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.97-1.98, Applicants hereby submit the following references for

05/18/2004 SLUANG1 00000080 09701402

02 FC:1806 180.00 0P

consideration by the Examiner. Copies of the references are enclosed along with a completed copy of Form PTO-1449.

I. DISCLOSURE

I. Disclosure

A. U.S. Patents

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C. Other Art – Non-Patent Literature Documents

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Catalog/Brochure: Arlink published by Arbell Industries – Series 8000 – Undated [While the date of publication of this document is unknown, it is believed to have been publicly known prior to March 21, 2001.] (32 pages)

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Catalog/Brochure: Datatex Furniture published by Atlantic Furniture Systems – Workstations; Modular Systems; Quality Components – Undated [While the date of publication of this document is unknown, it is believed to have been publicly known prior to March 21, 2001.] (9 pages)

Catalog/Brochure: Ellipse by Steelcase NeoCon 1997 (69 pages)

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Catalog/Brochure: Espace Temps published by Sansen – Undated [While the date of publication of this document is unknown, it is believed to have been publicly known prior to March 21, 2001.] (28 pages)

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II. DISCUSSION

A. West German Reference No. 27 44 923

Based solely on the drawings and the attached English-language Abstract, the '923 patent reference is pertinent because it appears to disclose a hotel counter with individual calculators.

B. West German Reference No. 28 39 770

Based solely on the drawings and the attached English-language Abstract, the '770 patent reference is pertinent because it appears to disclose a desk system having side parts joined to the edge of an angular table top.

C. West German Reference No. 29 15 010

Based solely on the drawings and the attached English-language Abstract, the '010 patent reference is pertinent because it appears to disclose a writing table accessory set having a number of trays.

D. West German Reference No. 34 39 626

Based solely on the drawings and the attached English-language Abstract, the '626 patent reference is pertinent because it appears to disclose a work table layout for a computer.

E. EPO Reference No. 0 481 878A

Based solely on the drawings and the attached English-language Abstract, the '878 patent reference is pertinent because it appears to disclose ducting for electric cable distribution to equipment on worktable.

F. EPO Reference No. 0 236 809A

The '809 patent reference was cited as a X-type reference in a Search Report for a corresponding PCT application. The X-type reference is pertinent to patentability but it cannot be considered novel or to involve an inventive step when it is taken alone. Based solely on the drawings and the attached English-language Abstract, the '809 patent reference is pertinent because it appears to disclose a work table having a cable shaft and a cable passage slot.

G. U.S. Patent No. 2,612,590

The '590 patent was cited as a X-type reference in a Search Report for a corresponding PCT application.

H. U.S. Patent No. 3,563,624

The '624 patent was cited as a X-type reference in a Search Report for a corresponding PCT application.

I. U.S. Patent No. 3,758,181

The '181 patent was cited as a X-type reference in a Search Report for a corresponding PCT application.

J. U.S. Patent No. 4,433,884

The '884 patent was cited as a X-type reference and a Y-type reference in a Search Report for a corresponding PCT application. The Y-type reference is pertinent to patentability

when combined with another Y-type reference.

K. U.S. Patent No. 5,024,167

The '167 patent was cited as a X-type reference in a Search Report for a corresponding PCT application.

L. U.S. Patent No. 5,183,319

The '319 patent was cited as a X-type reference and a Y-type reference in a Search Report for a corresponding PCT application.

M. U.S. Patent No. 5,473,994

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N. U.S. Patent No. 5,544,593

The '593 patent was cited as a X-type reference and a Y-type reference in a Search Report for a corresponding PCT application.

O. U.S. Patent No. 5,901,513

The '513 patent was cited as a Y-type reference in a Search Report for a corresponding PCT application.

P. EPO Reference No. 0 145 410A

The '410 patent reference was cited as a Y-type reference in a Search Report for a corresponding PCT application.

III. CONCLUSION

It is believed that none of these references, alone or in combination, disclose or suggest the invention claimed. In accordance with 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(g),(h), this Information Disclosure Statement is not to be construed as a representation that a search has been made and is not to be construed to be an admission that the information cited is, or is considered to be, either prior art or material to patentability as defined in 37 C.F.R. § 1.56(b).

This Information Disclosure Statement is being filed prior to the mailing date of any final action and hence is believed to be timely filed in accordance with 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(b). Fees set forth in 37 C.F.R. §1.17(p) are accompanied with this Information Disclosure Statement. Should any fees under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 to 1.21 be deemed necessary for any reason relating to these material, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to deduct said fees from Brinks Hofer Gilson & Lione Deposit Account No. 23-1925.

Applicants therefore request that the Examiner review the entire disclosure of each reference and make the above-listed references of record.

Respectfully submitted,



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|---|--|---|------------------------|
| FORM PTO 1449 | | SERIAL NO. 09/701,402 | CASE NO. 4635/234 |
| LIST OF PATENTS AND PUBLICATIONS FOR APPLICANT'S INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT | | FILING DATE March 19, 2001 | GROUP ART UNIT 3637 |
| (use several sheets if necessary) | | APPLICANT(S): William F. Schacht et al. | |

REFERENCE DESIGNATION U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

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| A18 | D325,140 | 04/07/1992 | Sottass et al. | | 09/10/1987 |
| A19 | D330,302 | 10/20/1992 | Heidmann | | 11/10/1988 |
| A20 | D332,363 | 01/12/1993 | Hollein | | 09/10/1987 |
| A21 | D338,789 | 08/31/1993 | Rizzi | | 06/12/1990 |
| A22 | D339,486 | 09/21/1993 | Rizzi | | 06/12/1990 |
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| A27 | 1,917,917 | 07/11/1933 | Bales | | 09/30/1931 |
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| A30 | 2,349,144 | 05/16/1944 | Corso | | 12/04/1941 |
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FORM PTO-1449

SERIAL NO.

09/701,402

CASE NO.

4635/234

~~LIST OF PATENTS AND PUBLICATIONS FOR
APPLICANT'S INFORMATION DISCLOSURE
STATEMENT~~

FILING DATE

March 19, 2001

GROUP ART UNIT

3637

(use several sheets if necessary)

APPLICANT(S): William F. Schacht et al.

REFERENCE DESIGNATION

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

| EXAMINER INITIAL | DOCUMENT NUMBER <small>Number-Kind Code (if known)</small> | DATE | NAME | CLASS/ SUBCLASS | FILING DATE |
|------------------|---|------------|-------------------|-----------------|-------------|
| A37 | 2,930,665 | 03/29/1960 | Budai | | 08/23/1951 |
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| A41 | 3,040,905 | 06/26/1962 | Gingher et al. | | 07/29/1958 |
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| A52 | 3,576,059 | 04/27/1971 | Pearson | | 06/03/1969 |
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| A54 | 3,635,174 | 01/18/1972 | Ball et al. | | 09/14/1970 |
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| A61 | 3,823,251 | 07/09/1974 | Heithecker et al. | | 06/12/1972 |
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| A75 | 4,094,561 | 06/13/1978 | Wolff et al. | | 06/20/1977 |

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SERIAL NO.

09/701,402

CASE NO.

4635/234

FILING DATE

March 19, 2001

GROUP ART UNIT

3637

(use several sheets if necessary)

APPLICANT(S): William F. Schacht et al.

REFERENCE DESIGNATION U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

| EXAMINER INITIAL | DOCUMENT NUMBER <small>Number-Kind Code (if known)</small> | DATE | NAME | CLASS/ SUBCLASS | FILING DATE |
|------------------|---|------------|--------------------|-----------------|-------------|
| A76 | 4,135,775 | 01/23/1979 | Driscoll et al. | | 06/20/1977 |
| A77 | 4,141,612 | 02/27/1979 | Rowe | | 09/30/1977 |
| A78 | 4,145,097 | 03/20/1979 | Naess et al. | | 12/05/1977 |
| A79 | 4,163,537 | 08/07/1979 | Mourgue | | 07/07/1977 |
| A80 | 4,163,592 | 08/07/1979 | Nelson | | 10/12/1977 |
| A81 | 4,163,867 | 08/07/1979 | Breidenbach | | 06/20/1977 |
| A82 | 4,198,913 | 04/22/1980 | Haworth et al. | | 05/26/1978 |
| A83 | 4,229,917 | 10/28/1980 | Textoris et al. | | 03/07/1979 |
| A84 | 4,235,495 | 11/25/1980 | Propst et al. | | 05/14/1979 |
| A85 | 4,258,963 | 03/31/1981 | Fusselman et al. | | 10/01/1979 |
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| A91 | 4,325,597 | 04/20/1982 | Morrison | | 03/27/1980 |
| A92 | 4,334,374 | 06/15/1982 | Spamer et al. | | 03/26/1981 |
| A93 | 4,343,245 | 08/10/1982 | Edwards | | 06/02/1980 |
| A94 | 4,372,629 | 02/08/1983 | Propst et al. | | 11/10/1980 |
| A95 | 4,381,714 | 05/03/1983 | Henneberg et al. | | 01/12/1981 |
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| A97 | 4,406,379 | 09/27/1983 | Anderson et al. | | 06/11/1982 |
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| FORM PTO-1449 MAY 18 2004 <i>SC16</i> | SERIAL NO. 09/701,402 | CASE NO. 4635/234 |
| LIST OF PATENTS AND PUBLICATIONS FOR APPLICANT'S INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT | FILING DATE March 19, 2001 | GROUP ART UNIT 3637 |
| (use several sheets if necessary) | APPLICANT(S): William F. Schacht et al. | |

REFERENCE DESIGNATION U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

| EXAMINER INITIAL | DOCUMENT NUMBER Number-Kind Code (If known) | DATE | NAME | CLASS/ SUBCLASS | FILING DATE |
|------------------|--|------------|-------------------|-----------------|-------------|
| A115 | 4,612,863 | 09/23/1986 | Vonhausen et al. | | 10/18/1983 |
| A116 | 4,619,486 | 10/28/1986 | Hannah et al. | | 06/08/1984 |
| A117 | 4,624,083 | 11/25/1986 | Diffrient | | 12/05/1983 |
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| A119 | 4,631,881 | 12/30/1986 | Charman | | 04/22/1986 |
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| FORM PTO-1449 <i>MAY 18 2004</i> | SERIAL NO. 09/701,402 | CASE NO. 4635/234 |
| LIST OF PATENTS AND PUBLICATIONS FOR APPLICANT'S INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT (use several sheets if necessary) | FILING DATE March 19, 2001 | GROUP ART UNIT 3637 |
| APPLICANT(S): William F. Schacht et al. | | |

REFERENCE DESIGNATION U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

| EXAMINER INITIAL | DOCUMENT NUMBER <small>Number-Kind Code (if known)</small> | DATE | NAME | CLASS/ SUBCLASS | FILING DATE |
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| A156 | 4,993,205 | 02/19/1991 | Dull et al. | | 04/09/1990 |
| A157 | 4,996,811 | 03/05/1991 | Dull et al. | | 04/09/1990 |
| A158 | 5,003,740 | 04/02/1991 | Dull et al. | | 11/23/1988 |
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| A160 | 5,024,030 | 06/18/1991 | Morrison | | 12/02/1985 |
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| A162 | 5,033,526 | 07/23/1991 | DeLong et al. | | 05/15/1990 |
| A163 | 5,037,164 | 08/06/1991 | Weissenbach et al. | | 04/10/1987 |
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| (use several sheets if necessary) | APPLICANT(S): William F. Schacht et al. | |

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| EXAMINER INITIAL | DOCUMENT NUMBER Number-Kind Code (If known) | DATE | NAME | CLASS/ SUBCLASS | FILING DATE |
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| A194 | 5,289,782 | 03/01/1994 | Rizzi et al. | | 12/03/1991 |
| A195 | 5,309,686 | 05/10/1994 | Underwood et al. | | 02/19/1992 |
| A196 | 5,318,259 | 06/07/1994 | Fussler | | 07/24/1992 |
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| A198 | 5,341,615 | 08/30/1994 | Hodges et al. | | 03/23/1993 |
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| A200 | 5,394,809 | 03/07/1995 | Feldpausch et al. | | 05/03/1993 |
| A201 | 5,406,760 | 04/18/1995 | Edwards | | 10/15/1993 |
| A202 | 5,428,928 | 07/04/1995 | Hellwig et al. | | 06/21/1994 |
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| A204 | 5,467,703 | 11/21/1995 | Crinion | | 06/15/1994 |
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| A206 | 5,473,994 | 12/12/1995 | Foley et al. | | 07/30/1992 |
| A207 | 5,487,246 | 01/30/1996 | Hodges et al. | | 07/06/1994 |
| A208 | 5,495,952 | 03/05/1996 | Kainz | | 04/06/1994 |
| A209 | 5,511,349 | 04/30/1996 | Kelley et al. | | 08/09/1994 |
| A210 | 5,530,435 | 06/25/1996 | Toms et al. | | 12/09/1993 |
| A211 | 5,544,593 | 08/13/1996 | Canfield et al. | | 09/03/1993 |
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| EXAMINER INITIAL | DOCUMENT NUMBER Number-Kind Code (If known) | DATE | COUNTRY | CLASS/ SUBCLASS | TRANSLATION YES OR NO |
|------------------|--|------------|------------|-----------------|-----------------------|
| A218 | 156 313 | 12/30/1920 | U. K. | | No |
| A219 | 27 44 923 | 04/12/1979 | W. Germany | | Yes |
| A220 | 28 39 770 | 03/27/1980 | W. Germany | | Yes |
| A221 | 29 15 010 | 10/23/1980 | W. Germany | | Yes |
| A222 | 0 145 410 | 06/19/1985 | W. Germany | | Yes |
| A223 | 34 39 626 | 07/17/1986 | W. Germany | | Yes |
| A224 | 0 236 809 | 09/16/1987 | EP | | Yes |
| A225 | 0 481 878 | 04/22/1992 | EP | | Yes |

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| EXAMINER INITIAL | OTHER ART – NON PATENT LITERATURE DOCUMENTS (Include name of author, title of the article (when appropriate), title of the item (book, magazine, journal, serial, symposium, catalog, etc.), date page(s), volume-issue number(s), publisher, city and/or country where published.) | |
|------------------|--|--|
| A226 | Catalog/Brochure: Advanced Office Furniture published by Marvel Group – Various Systems – 1989 (18 pages) | |
| A227 | Catalog/Brochure: Arlink published by Arbell Industries – Series 8000 – (While the date of publication of this document is unknown, it is believed to have been publicly known prior to March 19, 2001) (32 pages) | |
| A228 | Catalog/Brochure: Context Systems Furniture published by Steelcase – Freestanding Furniture System – (While the date of publication of this document is unknown, it is believed to have been publicly known prior to March 19, 2001) (60 pages) | |
| A229 | Catalog/Brochure: Datatex Furniture published by Atlantic Furniture Systems – Workstations; Modular Systems; Quality Components – (While the date of publication of this document is unknown, it is believed to have been publicly known prior to March 19, 2001) (9 pages) | |
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| LIST OF PATENTS AND PUBLICATIONS FOR APPLICANT'S INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT (use several sheets if necessary) | | FILING DATE March 19, 2001 | GROUP ART UNIT 3637 |
| APPLICANT(S): William F. Schacht et al. | | | |

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